


Memo

To: Karen Avilla, Vice Chair
Dr. Sharma Henderson, Secretary
Lambert Adouki, Committee Member
Alex Cainglet, Committee Member
Latrice Carter, Committee Member
Vera Robles Dewitt, Committee Member
Philipta Hicks, Committee Member
Matthew Marfice, Committee Member
Gil Smith, Committee Member
Michael Stewart, Committee Member
Rashina Young, Committee Member

From: Ana Meni, Chair - Committee of the Proposed City Charter 

cc: Donesia Gause-Aldana, City Clerk
Ken Farfaring, City Manager
Lisa Berglund, Assistant to the City Manager
Sunny Soltani, City Attorney
Lum Fobi, Deputy City Attorney

Date: 21 May, 2018

Re: Report Back From City Council

On behalf of the committee, I spoke at the last City Council meeting (15 May, 2018) to provide the City Council a status update of our committee meetings and to ask for direction/guidance since the initial scope provided by the City Council was vague. I also submitted the attached memorandum dated 15 May, 2018 to the City Council. Three (3) main directives were given by the City Council.

REORGANIZATION

At the 15 May, 2018 City Council meeting (item #21), the City Council reorganized the "Committee of the Proposed City Charter" from a 9-member, 3-alternative set-up to a 12-member, 0-alternatives and have replaced Alternate No. 2 - Cedell Bush with Lambert Adouki. The three (3) alternate members are now committee members.

The committee has been reorganized as follows:

1. Ana Meni, Chair

2. Karen Avilla, Vice Chair
3. Dr. Sharma Henderson, Secretary
4. Lambert Adouki, Committee Member
5. Alex Cainglet, Committee Member
6. Latrice Carter, Committee Member
7. Vera Robles Dewitt, Committee Member
8. Philipta Hicks, Committee Member
9. Matthew Marfice, Committee Member
10. Gil Smith, Committee Member
11. Michael Stewart, Committee Member
12. Rashina Young, Committee Member

REQUEST TO NARROW THE TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION

Members of the committee have made it very clear during the past committee meetings that the number of topics to be considered in the charter is far more than we have time for and have requested for a narrow list of topics to focus our energy and time on. Members of the committee and the public also posed the question as to the rush of the charter process.

The only answer/direction I was given was that the City Council would like for the Committee to consider everything and to have as many meetings as we need. This leads me to the last directive – future meetings.

SCHEDULING OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The City Council has directed that we have meetings throughout June and July in order for us to prepare and review the proposed charter. The reason there's no charter for us to review is because the City Council has not given staff direction at the past two City Council meetings (1 May and 15 May, 2018) as for what contents should be considered in the charter.

The City Council acknowledged at the 15 May, 2018 City Council meeting that the topics for the charter is being left to the Committee to prepare and review. With that, we'll need to decide and schedule the upcoming Committee meetings.

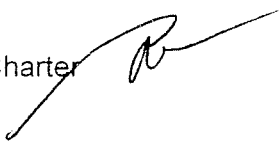
FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Considering the short time frame we are on, I had requested to City Manager Farfsing that the Committee have a standing staff report on the City Council agenda (excluding the public hearings) to give the Committee the opportunity to report back to the City Council and to give the City Council the ability/flexibility to give directives to the committee and staff on an on-going basis. My hope is that this will provide a more open process.

Enclosure: Memo dated 15 May, 2018 from Ana Meni, Chair to the Mayor and City Council.

Memo

To: Albert Robles, Mayor
Jawane Hilton, Mayor Pro Tem
Elito Santarina, Council Member
Lula Davis-Holmes, Council Member
Cedric Hicks, Council Member

From: Ana Meni, Chair - Committee of the Proposed City Charter 

cc: Donesia Gause-Aldana, City Clerk
Monica Cooper, City Treasurer
Ken Farfsing, City Manager
Lisa Berglund, Assistant to the City Manager
Sunny Soltani, City Attorney
Lum Fobi, Assistant City Attorney
Karen Avilla, Vice Chair
Dr. Sharma Henderson, Secretary
Alex Cainglet, Committee Member
Vera Robles Dewitt, Committee Member
Matthew Marfice, Committee Member
Gil Smith, Committee Member
Michael Stewart, Committee Member
Rashina Young, Committee Member

Date: 15 May 2018

Re: Status Update - Committee of the Proposed City Charter

As the appointed Chair of the Committee of the Proposed City Charter, I thought it would be best to provide the City Council a status update from the committee versus waiting to speak at the scheduled City Council Public Hearing to be held on 29 May, 2018 at 12:30 pm.

As of today, the 9-member Committee of the Proposed City Charter has held two (2) public meetings. The first meeting was held on 7 May, 2018 and the second on 14 May, 2018; both held at the Carson Community Center – Dominguez Room. The next scheduled committee meeting is set to occur on Monday, 21 May, 2018, 6 pm at the Carson Community Center – Dominguez Room.

At the 7 May, 2018 committee meeting, the members of the committee were introduced by City Manager Ken Farfsing and the election of the Chair, Vice Chair (Karen Avilla) and Secretary (Dr. Sharma Henderson) were made. Charter presentations and possible contents of a charter were presented by staff: City Manager Ken Farfsing, City Attorney Sunny Soltani, and Assistant City Attorney Lum Fobi.

In response to requests made by members of the public at the 7 May, 2018 meeting, I requested for staff to set-up a designated area on the City of Carson's website, dedicated to the potential charter. This portal has already been set-up and all documents supplied to the committee are now publicly accessible.

At the 14 May, 2018 committee meeting, contents of other City Charters (Cities of Torrance, Rancho Palos Verdes, and Inglewood) were presented by staff. As requested, staff also provided a timeline to the charter process.

It was also discussed at the 14 May, 2018 meeting about the possible topics that the committee may take into consideration for the possible charter.

Based on the comments from the public and discussions held by the committee from the past two meetings, the following topics were the main points identified:

1. Form of Government:
 - a. City Manager led versus Strong Mayor.
2. Mayor – at-large versus direct elected.
3. City Council Districts.
4. Mayor and City Council – compensation.
5. City Clerk and City Treasurer:
 - a. Appointed versus elected.
 - b. Compensation.
6. Why is there a sense of urgency to switch to a charter city from general law?

In preparation of the upcoming committee meeting on 21 May, 2018, I ask that the City Council give staff direction as to narrow down/prepare a listing of topics for the committee to take into consideration for the potential charter.